

Parly Notes 2006-4

Possible references for assistance----and some for the parly nerds out there.

First, there is no substitute for copy of latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)---currently 10th edition year 2000 Some people in some groups are trying to use the version on the internet---that is the 1915 or so edition.

Short version and help aid books---there are many help type books on the market and some are very good---be very careful to be sure it is based on RONR latest edition. Some of the help books are based on other Parliamentary Authorities (PA) and some are a mix and any published prior to 2000 may have out of date material.

In 2004, the authors of RONR came out with “Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, In Brief” it is only 200 pages (compared to over 700) and is written for any group and written at a fairly easy reading style. Also, it is fully cross referenced to the “big book”. Details: Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, In Brief, ISBN 0-306-81354-8, Da Capo Press costs ranges from about \$5.95 to \$6.95 depending on source. Should be available through most large bookstores or online from various vendors including the official websites of RONR, AIP, and NAP.

Some possible websites for use:

Official site of RONR--- robertsrules.com

This site hosted by the official Robert’s people and features as regular responders some of the top parliamentarians in the country including one or more of the authors of RONR. Suggest going to the “frequently asked questions” section first and several major points that are often asked about are answered. If you really want to challenge yourself and read the answers of the “pros” go to “forum” where 15-30 questions per day are submitted and answered by a host of people.

American Institute of Parliamentarians parliamentaryprocedure.org several points of interest

National Association of Parliamentarians parliamenarians.org these two organizations (AIP and NAP) are the two major organizations for parliamentarians in the country. Check on down loading either of their study tests if possible.

Jim Slaughter-- jimslaughter.com professional parliamentarian and attorney and has a good website including “brain teasers” which can be accessed for several years back; has news update of RONR in the news about parly use in law cases and recent news articles.

California site calaged.org/students/parliamentary/ their E-Bulletin series has many ideas and is FFA oriented.

Ohio site ohioffa.org/cde/parliamentary.shtml it differs from Indiana (as do all other states) but has several usable parts. Our parly cde is very different than other states.

Parli-pro that is what it is referred to across most of the country parlipro.org excellent material on motions suitable for handouts, check out “mind benders” for use as simple tests, multiple choice quiz, about minutes, etc... Suggest try several of their menu items but particularly “motion precedence” give an excellent presentation on major motions.

Minnesota site –may have trouble accessing but excellent for old tests
afee.coafes.umn.edu/ffacon/cdeexams

John Cagle’s site csufresno.edu/comm.-p3.htm has some good material

Eli Mina Consulting elimina.com/ several good articles and various materials

A point to ponder: remember two big points concerning getting into a situation with trying to assist a group or governmental unit on parliamentary procedure.

- a) Don’t tread in the world of legal---parliamentarians are not trying to be lawyers and remember that the law trumps RONR or other PA. Recommend check out the Bylaws and other governing documents, check to see if RONR is established as their PA; and remember a PA only kicks in after governing documents (laws, Bylaws, and standing rules.) Refer to Parly Notes 2006-5 for much more of this important topic.
- b) Make sure what their established PA is----while there is much agreement between different “books” there are some major difference---one example: Lay on the Table—in RONR is never to be used to “kill” a motion’s consideration---while in Sturgis (now commonly referred to as “Standard Code of Conduct” as has been rewritten by AIP) says that if the maker of motion so indicates the use of Lay on the Table may be used to “kill”. Other difference include different terms for the same intent; “Standard Code” has dropped several rather arcade things in RONR—example: Committee of the Whole, use of term “previous question”, etc. etc. (Whoops, did I say that RONR had some “arcade” things in it—slap on the wrist---but honestly anyone dealing with parly knows this to be true---how long does it take to teach a freshman (or anyone) the many uses of the word “question” in parly---the “previous question”, “putting the question”, “pending question”, etc. etc.....not to mention “Committee of the Whole, Informal Consideration, Fix time to which to adjourn, (including “adjourned meeting”), etc. etc..) Is it any wonder some people seek to avoid the whole area of parliamentary procedure???

I relate these from personal experiences including contacts in the last 3 weeks including: a farm coop with a question on elections (5 counties away from me); a town council in another town; right to speak at a school board hearing, a finance committee of a community foundation, volunteer fire department concern, and a major battle within a multi county group, etc..... Best advice be very careful and seek to be informed about their documents and even traditions (RONR does allow for traditions to be considered between “governing documents and PA”.) And know when to say: see a lawyer and “No Thanks”.